



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Monday, December 1, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety arrests 159 impaired drivers during long Thanksgiving holiday period

During a three day period beginning Friday, November 28 and ending Sunday, November 30, DPS Officers made **159** arrests statewide for driving under the influence. Out of that number **17** drivers were arrested for aggravated DUI and **33** were arrested for extreme DUI. The total number of underage DUI arrests was **14**. A total of **18** drivers had prior convictions for DUI when arrested and the average BAC of all of those arrested was **.145**.

Only one fatal collision occurred during the holiday weekend on Arizona's statewide highway system.

During last year's long holiday weekend, which began Nov. 21 and ended Nov. 26, DPS worked seven fatal crashes on the state highway system.

"We hope that Operation Border to Border helped save lives on Arizona's highways during the long holiday weekend. Photo enforcement, which was used in this operation, helps slow people down and appears to be having a very positive impact on highway safety. It's all about getting drivers to pay attention and that goes a long way toward reducing serious injury and fatal collisions," said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

As stated in the Nov. 26 press release, statistics from Operation Border to Border will be released on Tuesday, Dec. 2

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.

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